

CLAIMS

1. A packaging device for an elongate flexible medical device such as a guide wire, a catheter or the like, the packaging device including a flexible elongate body having means for reception of the medical device, and engagement means to allow interengagement of adjacent portions of the body when the body is wound in a coiled configuration to retain and support the body in said coiled configuration, characterised in that the engagement means is integrally formed with the flexible elongate body.
- 10 2. A packaging device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the engagement means comprises complementary interengagable formations on the flexible elongate body.
- 15 3. A packaging device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the complementary interengagable formations comprise elongate elements on an exterior of the body which extend substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the body.
- 20 4. A packaging device as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein the complementary interengagable formations are resiliently deformable for interengagement.
- 25 5. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the engagement means is operable to support coils of the body side by side in a common plane.
- 30 6. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the formations are interengagable in a direction substantially parallel to a plane defined by the coiled elongate body.
7. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the formations are interengagable in a direction which is at an angle to a plane defined by the coiled elongate body.

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8. A packaging device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the formations are interengagable in a direction which is normal to a plane defined by the coiled elongate body.
- 5 9. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the interengagable formations comprise associated male and female cooperating members on the flexible elongate body.
- 10 10. A packaging device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the male and female members are arranged on a periphery of the body on opposite sides of the body.
- 15 11. A packaging device as claimed in claim 10, wherein there is one set of male members and one set of female members on radially opposite sides of the tube.
12. A packaging device as claimed in claim 11, wherein there is a pair of male members and a pair of female members in each set.
- 20 13. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the engagement means comprises a longitudinally arranged groove on the body and a radially opposite, longitudinally arranged upstanding rib on the body, the upstanding rib being dimensioned to be a force-fit within the groove.
- 25 14. A packaging device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the groove is a reentrant groove.
15. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein each male member comprises a projection extending outwardly of the elongate body and each female member is formed by an arm projecting outwardly from the elongate body to define a socket therewith for reception of the male projection.
- 30 16. A packaging device as claimed in claim 15 wherein each male projection is

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formed by a rib extending between opposite ends of the elongate body and each arm forming a female member extends between opposite ends of the elongate body.

- 5 17. A packaging device as claimed in claim 15 or claim 16 wherein each arm is of arcuate section.
- 10 18. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein each male member has a bulbous head and the female member comprises a reentrant slot for snap engagement with the associated male projection.
- 15 19. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the male and female members are formed by curved arms at opposite sides of the body, each arm terminating in a bulbous head forming the male member, and the arm defining with the elongate body a female socket for reception of the bulbous head.
- 20 20. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the male formations comprise a pair of spaced-apart projections extending outwardly at one side of the elongate body and the female formations comprise an associated pair of arms projecting outwardly at an opposite side of the elongate body to define sockets therewith for reception of the associated pair of male members.
- 25 21. A packaging device as claimed in claim 20 wherein the arms extend tangentially outwardly at opposite sides of the elongate body and are substantially parallel, each arm terminating in an inturned lip to define with the body and the arm a female socket for reception of an associated male projection.
- 30 22. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the elongate flexible body is a profiled extrusion.
23. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the elongate

flexible body is made from a polymeric material.

24. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the elongate flexible body is made from a thermoplastics material.

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25. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the elongate flexible body is made from a polyolefin, a fluoropolymer or a polyamide material.

10 26. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the means for reception of the medical device is an elongate lumen within the body.

15 27. A packaging device as claimed in claim 26 wherein the engagement means is operable to retain the elongate body in a coiled configuration in which the distance between adjacent lumen sections is less than the diameter of the lumen.

28. A packaging device as claimed in claim 26 or claim 27 wherein the lumen is adapted for reception of a medical guide wire.

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29. A packaging device as claimed in claim 26 or claim 27 wherein the lumen is adapted for reception of a medical catheter.

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30. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein an adapter for connection to a fluid flushing device is mounted at one end of the elongate body.

31. A packaging device as claimed in claim 30 wherein the adapter comprises a luer fitting.

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32. A packaging device as claimed in claim 30 or 31 wherein axial slots are provided at one end of the adapter for cooperation and engagement with the male and female formations on the elongate body to mount the adapter on the elongate body.

33. A packaging device as claimed in claim 30 or 31 wherein the adapter has a receiver socket for reception of a free end of the elongate body.
- 5 34. A packaging device as claimed in any of claims 30 to 33 wherein hands grip means is provided on an exterior of the adapter.
35. A packaging device as claimed in any of claims 31 to 34 wherein the luer fitting extends from the end of the elongate body.
- 10 36. A packaging device as claimed in any of claims 31 to 35 wherein the luer fitting is demountably engagable with the end of the elongate body.
- 15 37. A packaging device as claimed in any of claims 31 to 36 wherein the luer fitting forms a seal with an outer surface of the elongate body.
38. A packaging device as claimed in any of claims 31 to 37 wherein the luer fitting forms a seal with the inner lumen of the elongate body.
- 20 39. A packaging device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the elongate body is of tubular plastics material.
40. An adapter for connecting the packaging device as claimed in any of claims 1 to 29 to a fluid flushing device, including:  
25 a body member;  
connectors in the body member engaging with the fluid flushing device;  
30 a bore in the body member for alignment of the bore with the elongate body;  
reception means in the body member for the engagement means to lock the elongate body within the adapter.